

WYCOMBE'S SNAP GOAL SETS PACE

Sports Mail Special Report

A SPECTACULAR goal by right winger Len Worley, one of the best seen at Loakes Park this season, put Wycombe Wanderers ahead eight minutes after the start of their Isthmian League game against Sutton United.

Wycombe Wanderers: Maskell; Bradshaw, Beck; Baker, Rundle, Gale; Worley, Samuels, Bates, Horseman, Merrick.

Sutton: Bateman; Gamlin, Taylor; Powell, Gradi, Hawkins; Brooks, Bladon, Blunt, Pritchard, Warnes.

Referee: D. J. Burns (Ashford).

After Maskell had saved with a daring dive at the feet of the Sutton inside-left, Pritchard, Wycombe gradually claimed more of the play.

But WORLEY'S goal came out of the blue with a tremendous long-range shot after a sparkling run along the wing. Then with Wanderers pressing strongly Merrick almost scored with another great long-range drive.

Sutton retaliated with some brisk combined attacks and in the 16th minute inside left BLADON rounded off a good move with an equaliser.

Four minutes later however, HORSEMAN restored Wycombe's lead zipping in to score after a defender had failed to clear a free kick from Bates in the goalmouth.

Play switched quickly from end to end with the nippy inside forwards and wing halves prominent on both sides, but 35 minutes after the start BLUNT levelled the scores for Sutton, with a quick shot close in, after Maskell had pushed out a hot shot from Bladon.

Two minutes later, however, MERRICK scored again for Wycombe from a high centre by Worley.

Half-time: Wycombe Wanderers 3, Sutton 2.

There was plenty of incident

in the second half as each side attacked in turn but Wycombe sustained their attack more strongly and the Sutton goalkeeper Bateman was kept much busier than Maskell.

He saved his side once with a last-minute dive to stop a crashing shot from Worley and then went down again to save from Bates.

At the other end Warnes was brought down just outside the penalty area after beating four defenders in a solo run, but Maskell saved well from the free kick.

Heavy rain made conditions extremely difficult towards the end but Sutton kept the game well alive in desperate bids for an equaliser, particularly on the left wing where Warnes was always a menace. Bladon was only inches wide with one smart shot.

RESULT:

WYCOMBE W. 3
SUTTON UTD. 2

Wycombe's hard fight

Wycombe 3 Sutton 2

WYCOMBE WANDERERS had to fight all the way for their Isthmian League points against a determined Sutton United at Wycombe.

Apart from occasional flashes of brilliance, notably from Worley and Horseman, Wycombe were below their best with a lack of precision in attack and some uncertainty under pressure in defence. But some strong half-back play enabled them to claim more of the game than Sutton, whose main hopes were centred on their enterprising inside forwards Bladon and Pritchard.

Grand goal

A goal in the eighth minute from Worley, one of the best seen on the ground this season, gave Wycombe an early advantage, but Sutton always looked dangerous in their less frequent attacks, and Bladon soon equalised.

Horseman got a second for Wycombe, only for centre forward Blunt to equalise again, but left-winger Merrick restored the Wanderers' lead from Worley's centre before half-time.

Wycombe made a series of all-out attacks in the second half. Against a stubborn defence, however, they spent themselves fruitlessly, and in the end they had to fight a rearguard action with goalkeeper Maskell coming to the rescue with one or two brilliant saves.